

REMARKS

Re-examination and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicant notes that the Office Action is silent with respect to the status of the drawings filed with the application. Accordingly, Applicant concludes that the filed drawings are accepted, and respectfully requests such an indication by the examiner in the next official communication.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of claims 1, 4, 5 and 11 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,550,587 to MIYADERA, and the various 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections applied against dependent claims 2, 3 and 6-10.

According to a feature of the present invention, the control amount is calculated based on a signal relating to a single image area. Applicant submits that at least this feature is lacking in the art of record.

Specifically, Applicant submits that MIYADERA discloses that an image frame is divided into a plurality of sectors. A white balance adjustment is changed in accordance with the sectors. This differs from Applicant's invention, in which the amount of the white balance adjustment for all image areas is determined in accordance with an image signal related to a single image area.

Applicant has now amended independent claims 1 and 11 to clarify that the control amount is based upon a signal related to a single image area. As discussed above, Applicant

submits that at least this feature is lacking from MIYADERA. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the ground for the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection no longer exists, and respectfully requests that this ground of rejection be withdrawn.

Further, Applicant submits that this feature is neither disclosed or suggested by the other art of record, and/or by what the Examiner refers to as Applicant's "admitted" prior art. Accordingly, Applicant submits that even if one attempted to combine the various art in the manner suggested by the Examiner, one would fail to arrive at the instant invention, in which a control amount for performing a white balance adjustment is based on an image signal relating to a single image area. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the ground for the various 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections no longer exist, and respectfully requests that the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections be withdrawn.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In view of the fact that none of the art of record, whether considered alone or in combination, discloses or suggests the present invention as now defined by the pending claims, and in further view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the Examiner's action and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested and are believed to be appropriate.

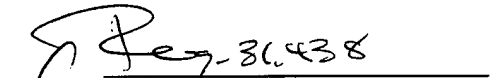
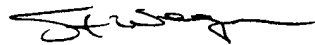
Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be

considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto. In this regard, Applicant notes that he has reviewed and amended the claims to place them in better U.S. form. Such amendments to the claims have not been made to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art.

Should the Commissioner determine that an extension of time is required in order to render this response timely and/or complete, a formal request for an extension of time, under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), is herewith made in an amount equal to the time period required to render this response timely and/or complete. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any required extension of time fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17 to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

If there should be any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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